

analysis in order to best “locate” where a facility may be constructed - in terms of the LEDPA. It is within this progressive planning context that SHC recognizes environmental requirements to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts.

Detailed information about the SHC initiative is available at the following NCDOT web link:

<http://www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/tpb/SHC/overview/>

The October 2005 “Concept Development Report” for SHC is available at:

http://www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/tpb/SHC/pdf/shc_concept_development_report.pdf

Information on NCDOT’s long-range transportation planning process, including links to specific Comprehensive Transportation Plans, is available at:

<http://www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/tpb/planning/default.html>

Purpose of SHC

The purpose of the SHC initiative is to provide a network of high-speed, safe and reliable highways throughout North Carolina for the consistent and efficient movement of people and goods. These corridors are critical to statewide mobility and connectivity and promote a vision of modern transportation, supportive of economic opportunities, and environmental excellence. The initiative offers NCDOT and its stakeholders a long-term vision to consider when making land use decisions, as well as design and operational decisions on the highway system. The creation of a long-term vision identifies the ultimate desired facility type (freeway, expressway, boulevard, or thoroughfare) for each corridor.

One or more of the following primary components characterize the designation of the corridors:

- Mobility. This criterion focuses on whether a corridor currently serves or has the potential to expeditiously move large volumes of traffic.
- Connectivity. This criterion focuses on whether a corridor provides a vital connection between Activity Centers (destinations of statewide or regional importance and places just outside of North Carolina's borders that serve the state’s citizens).
- Interstate Connectivity. This criterion focuses on whether a corridor provides an important connection between existing and/or planned interstates.
- Interstate Reliever. This criterion focuses on whether a corridor currently serves or has the potential to serve as a reliever route to an existing interstate facility.

Additional considerations include whether corridors are part of a national, statewide, economic, or military highway system.